



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

SOMETHING STILL LACKING

DEAR EDITOR: I have a burning desire to write of some things which have come before my eyes in the later years of my nursing life, but I question if I am competent to do so because of my fairly intimate knowledge of but one hospital training school, but I am led to wonder if some of the missing features, are also unknown in other institutions. In many training schools, I know, special provision is made for instruction on points which seem to me so essential, and I think there will be less ignorance when the practice of employing graduates who have taken a special course in the colleges which provide one, as instructresses, is more general. This is a preamble to my expression of the apathy I have found among the recent graduates, and those about to graduate. Ought we not by this time to find them more alive to the absolute necessity of preparing to specialize in one or more of the many activities now open to the profession? As an immediate means of living, the majority drift straight off to private nursing, and perhaps this is only the natural result of the previous three years lack of income, but not for a moment should it be lost to sight that there should be an ultimate aim. Surely during the three years of training some other line of work might have appealed to the future graduate, if the subjects had been fairly put before the class, as a matter of instruction, at least during the third year. But my primary grievance lies in the lack of knowledge and interest displayed in the work of a nurse outside of the sick-room; what she really owes to herself, to something more than her pocket-book, in the matter of joining her alumnae, and kindred societies. Speaking once to a second-year nurse, I said, "I must hurry now for my alumnae meeting." "What is that?" she said. I regretted much that I really did not have time to more than briefly enlighten her. But had there not been time in two years to even let her know there was such a thing as an alumnae association connected with her school? The out-coming classes are always entertained by the alumnae association, and invited as a body to join, and there had certainly been one graduating class in her time, but neither the occasion nor any subsequent teaching had impressed it on her mind. Then there is always the old, unfailing question, Well, what good will it do me? Why, now-a-days, I cannot get to the end of telling what good it will do. It seems as if one can't get anywhere, professionally, unless one belongs to something, and the multiplication of membership only continues to increase one's interest and desire for more. The more one knows, the more one wants to know, and the less one finds one does know, and even if the dues mount up in the year, in comparison to the income of the successful nurse, in proportion to her other expenses, she cannot honestly say any one is an extravagance. The more up-to-date she is in reading her nursing journals, and keeping up with her societies, the better she will be fitted to fill any position she may be called to enter. I want to put in a plea also, for belonging to some active church society. If away from one's home town, which is perhaps the only place in which one could keep up some little

church work that had in the past been her special line, why not join the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses? I don't see how nurses can go on being good nurses without some such responsibility being brought intimately into their lives. One may think one can, and no one knows better than I how hard it is for nurses to be more than church members in name only, but why should they not reach out to the greater helps if they can be put within their grasp? The Guild would prove a great help. No matter in what lines our lives are cast, some time or other the need of a power of expression, which without practice will become a lost art, may be borne in upon us, and we will wish we had greater familiarity with religious expression, that we may be "ready helpers in time of trouble."

I contend that the education and training of a pupil nurse is not complete, if the whole scheme and network of the many nursing organizations has not been made the topic of a special set of talks: how in joining her alumnae, she next becomes a member of her county and state associations, which are of course affiliated with the American Nurses' Association; or even before that, that there is state examination for registration, for without that "R.N." where is one? The Red Cross and nearly every public position now require that seal upon one's standing. If one is engaged in public health nursing, she should not stay outside the large band of public health workers. Some day, almost out of sight, in the dim haze of years, one may aspire to be a superintendent, and become one of the National League of Nursing Education. May she then carry out the lessons she has learned by experience, if not in her training.

AN OLD GRADUATE.

New Jersey.

THE NECESSITY OF AN ECONOMICAL DIRECTOR IN HOSPITALS

DEAR EDITOR: From my observation of the management of hospitals in which I have lived as pupil, special nurse and patient, it has seemed to me that the economical side of the training is the most neglected part of the whole curriculum. This is noticeably so in the larger municipal hospitals. The practice of economy in every branch is necessary in order to bring about efficiency. Would it not, therefore, pay the larger institutions to employ a woman who has had special training along this line of work and who is especially adapted to it? for there are those who are naturally inclined to look after the ward supplies, not including the dietetic department, for all hospitals should have a competent and well-salaried dietitian. The supervisor of hospitals has her hands full, teaching and demonstrating at the bedside and looking after the welfare of the patients under her care. The young woman just entering the training school, as a pupil probably never before saw such a large amount of linen, toilet articles, sterile dressings, solutions, and in fact of everything in use in the wards, all supplied with no visible expense to her. Naturally she cannot be expected to use these articles with guarded care, for she sees no limit to the supply. The employees and patients are very apt to use the supplies extravagantly, if they are not carefully dispensed.

It is not possible for the pupil nurse, even after spending the required time for her nursing education, to conceive the value of these articles, beside the time and labor employed to prepare them for use, or to realize what immense quantities are needed where many patients are cared for. In the larger municipal hospitals, less care for economy is exercised, apparently, than in the smaller institutions. The municipal hospital is not supported by endowment, nor is it